

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00
DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01
SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /102 W
-----111489 171608Z /46

R 160715Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1117
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
COMSIXTHFLT
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: EWWT TS JA
SUBJ: PLANS TO UPGRADE TUNISIAN SHIP REPAIR
FACILITY

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED MAY 14
IN TUNIS PARTY DAILY "L'ACTION", MINISTER OF INDUSTRY,
MINES AND ENERGY RACHID SFAR MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
IN RESPECT TO PLANS TO UPGRADE SOCOMENA SHIP REPAIR FACI-
LITY AT MENZEL BOURGUIBA: "IN RESPECT TO THE NAVAL COM-
PLEX OF MENZEL BOURGUIBA, A REACTIVATION PROJECT FOR
OPTIMAL UTILIZATION OF THE FACILITIES OF SOCOMENA HAS
BEEN DRAWN UP. NECESSARY NEW INVESTMENTS FOR THIS REAC-
TIVATION WILL BE MADE ONLY WHEN AND TO EXTEND (REPAIR)
CONTRACTS ARE CONCLUDED. IN THIS CONTEXT CONTACTS
BETWEEN SOCOMENA AND THE SHIPPING COMPANIES OF BROTHER
COUNTRIES AND FRIENDS COULD RESULT IN MAINTENANCE CON-
TRACTS COVERING SEVERAL YEARS". (END UNCLASSIFIED)

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2. (BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED,
A TEAM OF 13 JAPANESE (HITACHI) SHIPYARD TECHNI-
CIANS IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN TUNISIA IN MID-JUNE
UNDER TERMS OF A GOJ LOAN FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.
WE UNDERSTAND THEY WILL FILL IN DETAILS OF A FEASI-
BILITY STUDY CARRIED OUT IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BY
A PRELIMINARY JAP 3 3 53-- APPARENTLY, GOJ HAS NOT

AGREED TO FINANCE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLANS FOR VACI-
ILITY. ACCORDING TO A LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPANESE
ITOH GROUP, WHICH IS PROMOTING PROJECT, UPGRADING OF
FACILITY WOULD BE WITH VIEW TO SERVICING OIL TANKERS ON
SUEZ ROUTE, WOULD BE PRINCIPAL TARGET MARKET. (END
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MULCAHY

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NNN

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